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The State of Prisons and of Child-Saving Institutions in the Civilized World.
E. C. WINES, D. D. Cambridge, Mass. 1880. pp. 719.

This work is the result of eighteen years of study and observation. It contains a large number of facts that can be trusted, as they are taken either from official communications of various governments, or from specialists. By far the larger portion of the work is given to the history of criminology in all civilized countries, which gives it additional value. As to prevention and repression of crime three problems present themselves: (1) how to educate all children of the state; (2), how to save destitute, harmless, neglected and vicious children from a first fall, and if fallen to rescue them from a criminal career; (3), how to bring adult criminals into a better condition during imprisonment. There are always a number of children, who are not reached by public instruction; their destitution, vagrant life, depraved habits forbid their reception; they are brought up to crime and continually supply criminals. Such children should be reached by the infant nursery, kindergarten, orphan asylum, industrial schools, etc. These institutions should be multiplied and aided by the state. The state should assume the control of children under fourteen, who are without proper guardianship.

Preventive institutions should be for vagrant and deserted children; reformatory institutions for all children declared not responsible by the courts. The bases for reformatory prison discipline are hope and sociability. The first stage of imprisonment should be penal, to show the prisoner that the way of the transgressor is hard. The second stage should have inducements to industry, obedience, shortening of sentence, increased earnings, improved dress and dietary; lifting of restraint, enlargement of privilege, anticipatory of the idea of liberty. Maconochie says, "only in society can man be trained for society." But promiscuous and unchecked intercourse must be prohibited. The wills of prisoner and keeper must be in accord. There must be tests of reformation; the passage from imprisonment to freedom should be gradual; the latter part of the imprisonment should be as near as possible to ordinary life. The indefinite sentence assumes the principle of the diminution of crime by the reformation of the criminal. The definite sentence gives freedom to dangerous persons.

Religion is of prime importance, because most potent in action on heart and life; it calms the restless irritation of vice, which saps the moral forces in criminals with strong impulses. Education affords a substitute for vicious ideas and amusements. The benefits of regular labor are self-evident. The state should aid discharged prisoners in finding employment. Innocent persons suspected and arrested should be paid for their loss. Habitual drunkards should be confined in asylums or reformatories only, and held under mild treatment until there is reasonable assurance of reformation. The general conclusions are: to lessen crime by reforming the prisoner; to prohibit political interference and consequent instability in prison administration, and to train prison officers for their work.

Female Life in Prison, F.W. ROBINSON. London, (4th. edition revised).
pp. 384.

The book is a faithful transcript of authentic details, putting into shape the utterances of one who was a prison matron. There are women in prison mourning over petty thefts; and murderesses defiant, cheerful and even light-hearted. It is the humble officers in the prison who know the true character of the prisoners, as they are constantly with them. The directors, governors and chaplains are misled every week in the year. The chief reason for writing this book is to give the true character of the prisoners, as seen by those in constant companionship with them. The details of the whole prison life are brought out, giving an insight into this life as it is.